

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF MADAGASCAR AND THE MASCARENE, SEYCHELLES, AND COMORO ISLANDS by Friedrich-Wilhelm Henkel and Wolfgang Schmidt. 2000. English edition. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida. viii + 316 pp. Hardcover. ISBN 1-57524-014-9. Available from Krieger Publishing Company, P. O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542, USA. Fax: ++ 321 951 3671; Email: marketing@krieger-pub.com. Price (excluding postage): US\$ 64.50

Originally published in German in 1995, the English language edition of the work originally entitled 'Amphibien und Reptilien Madagaskars der Maskarenen, Seychellen, und Komoren' is now available as yet another title in the growing series of volumes on herpetology issued by Krieger Publishing Company.

Although the cover page identifies only Henkel and Schmidt as the authors of the volume, the preliminaries show that the taxa covered by the volume was the work of three additional authors- Michael Knöthig (geckos and skinks), Klaus Liebel (frogs and snakes) and Roland Zobel (plated lizards). The final translation and technical edit was done by Hinrich Kaiser.

The organisation of the book includes: a preface by the first two authors, an account of the geological history, climate, vegetation and fauna of Madagascar, Comoro, Seychelles and the Mascarene Islands, followed by the species accounts. Finally, there is a three and a half page section on references and an index to scientific names, locality names, and various English names of species, herpetological and otherwise.

Species accounts for 240 species of amphibians and reptiles native to the region (plus introduced species such as *Calotes versicolor* and *Lycodon aulicus*) comprise the current scientific

name and authority (updating the taxonomy from the original German edition), type locality, distribution (within the region, as well as extralimital), a general description of habitat, size, distinguishing features, biology and vivarium care. A colour photo is printed on the same page, when available. While the text will allow field identification, it is also geared for use by the terrarium-crowd, and contains tips on housing, feeding and breeding many of the rarely seen species from this archipelago.

Admitted the volume is expensive, the placement of photos of individual species within the species account (rather than bundled together and placed in one section of the book) may be one of the factors. The photos themselves are uniformly good, and many are apparently "shot in the field".

Overall, this is yet another fine production from Krieger, and deserves place in every library concerned with the herpetology of Africa and of island herpetofaunas.

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AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN. AN ATLAS AND FIELD GUIDE by Ahmad M. Disi, David Modrý, Petr Necas and Lina Rifai. 2001. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 408 pp. Hardcover. ISBN 3-930612-12-7. Available from Chimaira Buchhandels-gesellschaft mbh, Friedberger Anlage 14, D-60316 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Tel: + 49 69497223; Fax: + 49 69497826; Email: frogbook@aol.com. Price (excluding postage): DM 78.00 (Euro 40).

The herpetofauna of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, unlike some of neighbouring countries, suffered from a lack of an accessible field guide to its herpetofauna. Written by a

well-known team of Jordanians and Moravians have rectified the situation with this excellent field guide.